



Montana

## Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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June 16, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **MONTANA'S TIGHT LABOR MARKET RESULTS IN WAGE INCREASES**

HELENA, Mont. --- Montana's unemployment rate grew by 0.2% to 3.8% in May. The state's workforce saw a reduction in non-agricultural employment of 800 jobs or a decrease of about 0.2%.

"Average wages in Montana grew by 4.8% in 2005," said Commissioner Keith Kelly. "Given that inflation was only 3.4% during this time, the standard of living for the average Montanan is getting better."

Education and Health Services<sup>\*\*</sup> recorded the largest employment gain, adding 300 new jobs. Natural Resources and Mining and Other Services<sup>\*\*</sup> each showed an increase of 200 positions, while Information<sup>\*\*</sup> saw an increase of 100 positions. Manufacturing, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, and Financial Activities all declined by 100 jobs. Construction and Government each decreased by 200 positions, while Professional and Business Services decreased by 300. Leisure and Hospitality saw the biggest decline, with a loss of 700 positions.

Additional information related to this employment situation press release can be found by visiting the Research and Analysis website at [www.ourfactsyourfuture.org](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org)

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*\*Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to Tyler Turner, Economist with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.*

*\*\*These industry sectors are not-seasonally adjusted.*

**\*\*\*\*\* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET \*\*\*\*\***

**County unemployment rates are also available in our monthly economic bulletin, *Montana Economy at a Glance*, and on our website.**

**Labor Force data for Montana Indian Reservations is available on the Research and Analysis Bureau's website at:**

**[www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121)**

**Montana Occupational Employment and Wages are now available at:**

**[www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/AreaSelection.asp?tableName=Oeswage](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/AreaSelection.asp?tableName=Oeswage)**

**Montana occupational wages are posted by occupational titles twice a year. Annual and hourly wages are available for the state, regions (east, central, southwest and west) and metropolitan statistical areas (Billings, Great Falls and Missoula).**

**These estimates for wage and salary workers are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies. The OES survey provides national, state, and metropolitan area estimates of employment, hourly wages, and annual wages for 22 major occupational groups and for all 801 non-military detailed occupations, as defined by the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system.**

**The June 2006 Labor Situation Report will be released Friday, July 21, 2006.**